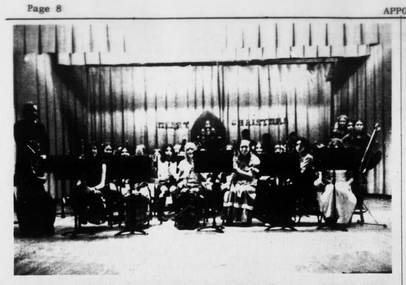


Concert Presented

The Appomattox County Elementary School Band, under the direction of Frank Coffey, presented concerts Friday at the Elementary School and the Middle School. The concert at the Middle School also featured a contata by the school choir under the direction of Karen Gibson.

Christmas In Poland

BY JOYCE VAUGHAN

In Poland on Christmas eve children take up their vigil at sunset to watch for the Christmas star to appear in the sky. They are helped in their watching by the father of the family, for as soon as the Christmas star appears in the sky the Christmas dinner can be served and the festivities begun. Nothing can progress until the star appears.

The mother of the family prepares a special recipe of twelve different dishes to represent the twelve days of Christmas. There always has to be twelve dishes for the dinner. Recipes are passed down through the generations. The table has to be set for one more person than will be eating the dinner. This is in case a stranger or a holy guest should arrive unexpected.

Christmas presents are exchanged on December 6 and Christmas eve is saved for a special day of celebration for the birth of the Holy Child. The Polish people have a Christmas tree decorated with lights and ornaments the same as we do. The family goes to church on Christmas eve to worship together. Most of the people are Catholic. Even those who are now communists still keep their Catholic and traditional customs. About five per cent of the nation is protestant.

If children have been bad they really do get a bunch of switches but if they have been good, Santa Claus comes and makes their special wish come true.

There is usually snow for Christmas and horse draw sleighs and tobaggans are prevalent.

The Polish people also send Christmas cards and the Liberty Youth Singers have received beautiful ones from their two guides Monan Turek (Marion) and Malgomata Mrokowska (Margaret).

Easy Way to Say Christmas Thanks

Here's an idea for a wonderful way for youngsters to say thank-you for Christmas presents — and much easier than persuading them to write thank-you notes!

Get someone to take a picture of the youngster showing him or her holding or using the gift. Then get him to write just a few words of thanks on a piece of paper or the photo itself. Grandma, or Uncle, is sure to be doubly pleased!

Year End Report

William M. Dietrick, president of the Virginia Society for the Prevention of Blindness, reports that the Society's 1974 fund raising campaign is $25,000 short of meeting its goal. "We were pleased to be able to increase our programs throughout the state last year, but without added support, we definitely cannot expand our efforts and may even have to curtail our programs in 1975," he said.

The preschool vision screening program, designed to identify children aged 3 to 6 who need eye care, reached 12,604 youngsters in 1974. This represents an increase of 50% over the 1973 screening year. The trained volunteers referred 574 children for complete, professional eye examinations.

The glaucoma program screened 6,300 adults and refered 319 for diagnosis by an eye physician because of the possibility of glaucoma. The increase was 50% over 1973. Approximately 38,000 Virginians over age 35 are victims of glaucoma. If the disease is diagnosed and treated in the early stages, sight loss can be prevented. Untreated, glaucoma will eventually cause blindness.

The Virginia Society, an affiliate of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, is a voluntary health agency, supported entirely by contributions. Programs of early detection, safety, and public education reach all areas of the state. For further information, write: Prevent Blindness; P. O. Box 2020; Richmond, Va. 23216.

Make It for a Party: Eat It Later

Doesn't the Marshmallow Wreath look good enough to eat? It really is!

Make a Marshmallow Gumdrop Wreath like our photo to use as a centerpiece on a holiday table. It would be very attractive encircling a big candle.

The base of the wreath is a large styrofoam ring which you can buy at the dime store, or glue together from smaller pieces of foam (often used as packing material). Or substitute any porous material—foam rubber, leftover plasterboard, etc. Cut marshmallows in half with scissors, wiping scissors with damp cloth after each marshmallow is cut, to keep blades clean.

Cut off ⅓ the length of each toothpick and use the longer piece, inserting it into marshmallow. Place marshmallow on foam ring and push toothpick through marshmallow and into ring.

Leave about ¼ inch exposed. Now place small gumdrop on the exposed toothpick: use red and green gumdrops for a gala, colorful effect.

there's apt to be a hot sun beaming down on sand.

★ ★ ★ ★

However, the image of the White Christmas has taken hold everywhere. And so we use artificial snow, and garlands of Spanish moss instead of evergreens. Even palm trees may be used as Christmas trees, which, after all, relates realistically to the climate of the Holy Land itself.

Even in the north, today, it often happens that snow fails to appear at Christmas. But tradition is stronger than the contrary weather. We like the look and the idea of snow, and this tradition is reflected in our holiday decorations and greeting cards. The whiteness of snow stands for purity — its coldness suggests by contrast the warmth and coziness of the fireside and family group. And the magic of snow falling can lift our spirits as it transforms the world, covering all that is dreary with pure white.

FIRST CANDLE MACHINE

In 1834 a modern candle-molding machine was developed by Joseph Morgan, so that candles no longer had to be made by a tedious hand-dipped process.

Snow or No, It's Always "White Christmas"

The traditional image of an outdoor Christmas scene brings to mind, for most of us, the brilliance of sunlight on snow-covered fields and hills. But this is an idea that originated in the northern parts of Europe and America, and of course it doesn't really apply to the climate in many parts of our country.

In southern California, for instance, roses are blooming at Christmas—indeed, we all know this is only because of the famous New Year's "Rose Bowl" football game. And in Florida, at Christmas time,

How to Re-Use Gift Boxes, Cans

Don't be too quick to throw out those good boxes or cartons that hold your family's Christmas gifts — you can make them into handsome containers for everything from hair rollers to sewing materials, not forgetting the canisters and cookie tins you can make out of those plastic-lidded coffee cans!

Cover your boxes and coffee cans with self-adhesive plastic, decorate them with braid or tape, and label them with cut-out letters. It's easy to do with self stick plastic — just make sure surface of box or tin is clean and dry. Then cut your plastic to fit, allowing for an overlap at seams or edges, and press it down smoothly. Or you can use fabric or gift paper, which you'll have to glue on.

It's a great way to "recycle" your boxes and cans — and you'll have attractive containers for all sorts of things, in kitchen, bathroom, or at desk or phone.

You can make a pretty pencil jug out of a juice can . . . and never again have to say, "Wait till I find a pencil," while you're on the phone!

Toys - Toys

The Christmas season is one of peace and goodwill and, unfortunately, eye accidents. The Virginia Society for the Pevention of Blindness urges you to choose toys carefully. Projectiles, sharp edges, pointed objects, toys designed to send pieces flying through the air, and BB guns can be the cause of eye damage, even blindness.

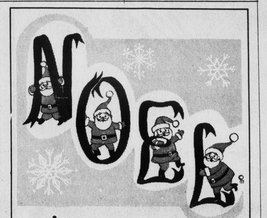
Eye accidents in children are not limited to boys, however, and the best defense is to teach a child to be careful of his eyes and the eyes of those around him.

BB guns should not be thought of as toys. They are weapons, and as far as the eye is concerned, they are lethal weapons. Besides the obvious danger of a BB being shot at someone, there is the added danger of the tiny pellets ricocheting.

Think before you buy, remind children of eye safety, and have a happy, safe Christmas.

APPOMATTOX PRINTING CO.
Jacob & Estelle Lewis

Season's best to you, this Christmas Day.
We appreciate the patronage shown to us.
Paulette's Superette & Outlet Store
RT. 460 - ½ way between Appomattox & Pamplin, Va.



It's time to be merry and bright . . . and to thank our many good friends for your valued patronage, loyalty, good will, confidence and support.
T. Hunter Dickerson
CHURCH STREET APPOMATTOX, VA.

It's time for Christmas wishes, and ours for you are warm. So are our thanks.
National Auto Parts, Inc. NAPA
APPOMATTOX, VA.

Merry Christmas
May the joys of home and hearthside fill your holidays . . . and your hearts . . . with gladness. To know you and serve you is our sincere pleasure. Thanks, friends, for your generous, loyal support.
Farmers National Bank
Main Street & Triangle Plaza Shopping Center Appomattox, Va.

Christmas GREETINGS
Trees all a-glimmer, surprises in store! To the holiday shimmer, add our warm gratitude.
Sears Catalog Store
PERRY DUNCAN, OWNER
TRIANGLE PLAZA SHOPPING CENTER
APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

Site our the cards
Delight in Christmas tu lots of lighth fun. For valued patr thanks to eve
APPOMATTOX DRUG ST
Your Home-Owned Drug Store
Rod Pack, R.Ph - Herbert Abbitt, I
Appomattox, Va.

Greetings
It's the season to be grateful for blessings . . . and we appreciate your continued patronage and goodwill.
CAROLE'S FASHIONS
Lower Level - Triangle Plaza Shopping Cen
Appomattox, Va.

Hand Crafted Decorations

Hand crafted Christmas decorations adorn the walls of the Home Ec Department at Appomattox County Middle School. Decorations were made by seventh and eighth grade classes of Mrs. Velma Elliott and Mrs. Gale McCraw and were hung for open house held for teachers and administrators.

Timberlake Kiwanis Club Met

The Timberlake Kiwanis Club met Tuesday morning for breakfast at the Sheraton Inn with Richard Harris, Executive Director of Big Brothers of Central Virginia as featured speaker. Mr. Harris was introduced by David Whitehead, club president.

"Big Brothers is a professionally administered social agency that utilizes volunteer men in regular friendship assignments with fatherless boys on a one-to-one basis," Harris said. He emphasized the great need for mature men of good character to volunteer a couple hours a week to help a boy grow into a responsible person, by setting an example and providing companionship and understanding to a Little Brother. It was pointed out that there are more than 2000 boys in the Lynchburg area, aged eight through seventeen, growing up in homes without the presence of a father. "The values that grow out of a Big Brother relationship have been demonstrated over the years." Big Brothers is an agency serving through the United Way.

The Legend of Christmas Tinsel

According to an old legend, a poor peasant woman, with many children, decorated a Christmas tree with such humble trimmings as she was able to gather, mostly berries and nuts and such odds and ends as she had managed to save up during the year. She labored far into the night trying to make her tree as beautiful as she could.

While she was asleep, spiders came and crawled from branch to branch trailing their lacy webs behind them. To reward the woman for her devotion, The Christ Child blessed the tree and all the spider webs were turned into gleaming silver.

RED HOLLY BERRIES

A legend relates that on the first Christmas night, when the shepherds went to the manger, a little lamb following them was caught by the holly thorns, and the red berries are the drops of its blood that froze on the branches.

Coptic Customs Rule in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is a land which has been Christian for some 1,600 years. The Ethiopian Orthodox Coptic Church, which has much in common with other Eastern Rite churches, such as the Greek and the Russian, is the established church of the nation. In its interesting and unusual customs, which are a blend of Christian, Hebraic, and pagan traditions, there are many unusual rites and ceremonies, centering on the important Church festivals of Christmas and Epiphany.

Today, in Ethiopia, customs of the Western celebration of Christmas are beginning to find popularity, so that Santa Claus is becoming a familiar figure. Christmas trees are being set up and decorated, and gifts are being exchanged. All this is done, however, according to the dates of the old Julian calendar, which is the one followed in Ethiopia, so that they celebrate Christmas on January 7th.

In this connection, it is interesting to know that the year in Ethiopia consists of 13 months, starting on September 11, when spring begins. There are 12 months of 30 days each, plus a short month of 5 days, known as Pagumen. This comes just before the New Year.

However westernized the Ethiopian Christmas may become, the people are not likely to change their observance of important religious festivals. In the month of January, known as Tir, the Coptic Church observes 4 festivals — the first being Christmas, but even more important is Epiphany, or Timket. This has, as its main feature, the blessing of water and the sprinkling of it on the assembled faithful — a re-enactment of Christ's baptism by John the Baptist. On the previous day, all is made ready. Bells ring, trumpets blow, and drums roll as the priests carry the sacred "Tabot" out from the church to a special carpeted tent, where it remains overnight until time for the priests to bring it forth for the ceremony.

The "Tabot" is the most sacred object in the church. It represents the Ark of the Covenant, which, according to tradition, was brought to Ethiopia from Jerusalem by Menelik, son of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. The Tabot is really a portable altar holding the sacred vessels for celebrating the Eucharist, and is always carried concealed under crimson cloths, on the heads of the priests.

RUSSIAN SOUR: Mix equal parts of chilled strong tea and cranberry juice. Add frozen, concentrated, undiluted lemonade to taste. Add an egg white for every 4 cups and shake until frothy. Serve with orange slices and maraschino cherries.

Know What "Wassail" Means?

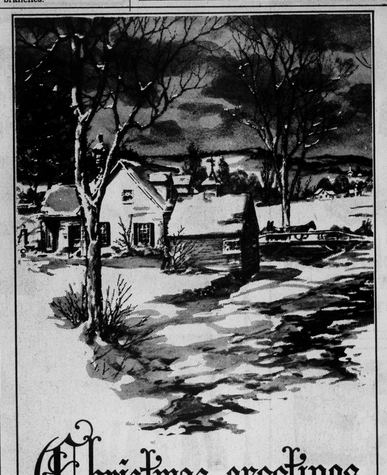
This ancient word, familiar to us from song and story, comes from the Anglo-Saxon words "Wes hal" — which means "be whole," or in more modern terms, "Good Health." It was used as a toast, before lifting one's glass — and by extension came to mean a drinking song.

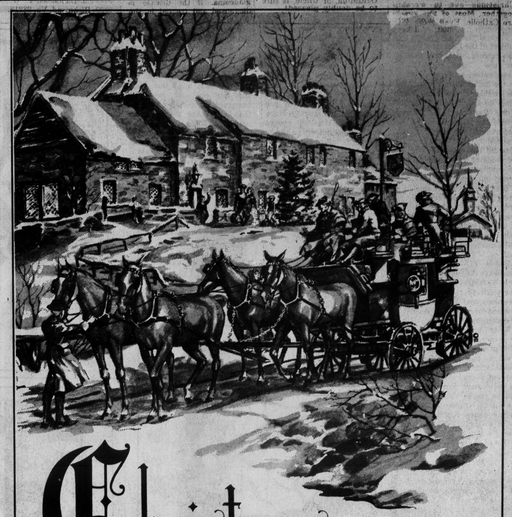
1975 RABIES DOG VACCINATION
APPOMATTOX COUNTY

Thurs., Jan. 2	3-4 p.m. Appomattox, Va.	
Thurs., Jan. 9	1-6:30 p.m. Appomattox, Va.	
Thurs., Jan. 16	3-4 p.m. Pamplin, Va.	
Thurs., Jan. 23	SNOW DATE Appomattox, Va.	

Maude's Restaurant
ROUTE 460 - WEST APPOMATTOX, VA.

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord let's give thanks for the blessings shown us. Special thanks, patrons.
Appomattox Radio & TV Service
S. C. Pool, Owner
809 West Confederate Blvd.
Appomattox, Virginia 24522


Christmas greetings
In the spirit of an old-fashioned Christmas we extend best wishes to all. We hope you and your loved ones share in the many old-time joys and blessings of the season.
Bennett T. Matthews, Inc.
ATWOOD STREET APPOMATTOX, VA.


Christmas...
IN THE TRUE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT, WE JOIN ALL MEN OF GOOD WILL IN PRAYERS FOR LASTING PEACE. GRATEFULLY, WE THANK EVERYONE FOR THE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE THAT HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO US.
Poe Hardware Co., Inc.
Church Street Appomattox, Va.